



**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors**

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### **Delaware Jockeys “Saddle-Up” for Disabled Riders**

John F. Wayne, Thoroughbred Racing Executive Director, has notified Michael Scuse, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture that the Delaware Jockey’s Health and Welfare Benefit Board voted recently at their August 10, 2006 board meeting to match funds previously pledged by Delaware Park Race Track in the amount of \$18,000.00 to the NTRA Charities - Permanently Disabled Jockey’s Fund. This will make the total contribution from Delaware \$36,000.00.

“What the Delaware Jockeys did by making this selfless contribution to a very worthwhile fund makes all of us very proud of our local rider colony,” stated John F. Wayne. Wayne continued, “The Delaware Jockeys have shown compassion for their fellow riders by coming forward unsolicited and making this gift to the NTRA Charities Fund.

The Delaware Jockeys Health and Welfare Benefit Board oversees the management of annual fund monies in the amount of \$350,000.00 annually, adjusted for inflation, which comes equally from the Video Lottery Funds from the track and half from the Horsemen’s Purse Account. Monies in the fund off set health and welfare costs for the participating riders. Delaware Park also has a one-million dollar on-track injury policy in force that is separate from the health care fund in addition to a fund for temporary disabled riders that are recovering from injuries while preparing to return to racing.

Wayne concluded, “The stars in our sport are the jockeys and of course the horses they ride. Recognizing the hazardous nature of their profession, showing appreciation for their abilities and providing for their welfare is our responsibility.”

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